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'Obviously we want to know what happened'

Conflicting accounts of Canadian soldier's death PAGE 4

Premier Greg Selinger at the leadership race on Sunday. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Selinger wins leadership race

NDP. Premier defeats Oswald by just 33 votes

Premier Greg Selinger will lead his divided NDP into next year's election after barely winning the support of party delegates in a hard-fought leadership race.

Selinger beat former health minister Theresa Oswald by 33 votes on the second ballot of a leadership campaign on Sunday. Selinger took just over 51 per cent of the vote with 759 ballots, while Oswald — who resigned from cabinet after calling for Selinger to step down — won 49 per cent.

"I know it started out rough but I think we've come out of this stronger," Selinger told reporters. "Sure, there have been bumps and grinds along the way, and there are lots of specific issues that people were unhappy about, but, at the end of the day, you saw a good atmosphere in the room. I think that bodes well for the future."

Selinger was forced into the leadership race after Oswald and four other senior cabinet ministers called on him to resign last October, as the party slumped in opinion polls.

Former infrastructure minister Steve Ashton, who ran against Selinger for the leadership in 2009, was dropped from the race after finishing last on the first ballot.

He did not endorse either candidate, leaving supporters to "use their best judgement."

Selinger has faced public anger since raising the provincial sales tax to eight per cent from seven in 2013 after promising not to during the last election.

Unlike his opponents, Selinger made few promises and kept a low profile during the leadership campaign.

Oswald said she wouldn't say if she will run again in the next election or if she would sit in a Selinger cabinet again. But she said she will work to unite the party despite the "grave concerns" she had about Selinger's leadership months earlier.

"If that hand is extended, I've made a promise to New Democrats across this province that I will do my best and work together and that's exactly what I'm going to do," Oswald said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Winnipeg Police Service budget gets small boost

City hall. Deputy chief said he's happy to see crime-reduction strategies working

BERNICE PONTANILLA
bernice.pontanilla@metronews.ca

The city's acting police chief said he's confident the force can deal with a small increase of 1.8 per cent to its budget for 2015.

Deputy Chief Art Stannard, who attended the latest Winnipeg Police Board meeting in place of Chief Devon Clunis, said they're looking at several ways to decrease costs.

"We're going to do our best to meet that target. Policing is not controlled though, it's uncontrolled, in some ways, with criminal activity," said Stannard after the meeting.

He added that he's pleased with the crime reduction Winnipeg has seen in the last couple years.

"The police service, the community, the police board, the city — we have all worked together to reduce crime. You can see it's happening ... (The) budget was driven by crime a few years ago; this year, the last year it was not, and it's not by fluke."

During a presentation on the budget, police brass said the belt-tightening will be done through a reduction of overtime and increase in vacancy management, a city initiative by which positions are kept unfilled.

Police are also looking at a reduction in the force's full-time equivalent positions — which will be 1,932.35 FTEs, down from 1,965.92 — due to the cancellation of policing contracts at the airport and other places.

The actual number of staff reductions isn't clear, since an FTE can mean two part-time positions or some other combinations.

The board approved the budget, which now moves on to the executive policy committee and would then head to the special council meeting on the city's operating and capital budgets on March 23.

Deputy Chief Art Stannard answers reporters' questions during a media scrum following Friday's police board meeting. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

WPS move date uncertain with new HQ under repairs

No move-in date has been determined for the Winnipeg Police Service's new headquarters, said Deputy Chief Art Stannard on the same day city officials stated the project is within its budget.

"We don't have a date, no; that would be up to PP&D," said Stannard, referring to the city's planning, property and development department.

"When the building is city-ready, it'll be turned over to the city, but it has to be police-ready, so we need to do a couple things in there before we move in."

A financial status update on the police HQ will be provided at Thursday's finance committee meeting.

In it, city officials said the project is within the approved $156-million budget, which was amended in 2014 from the previous guaranteed maximum price of $137 million.

The move-in date for the HQ shifted significantly following a rainstorm last August that "compromised" the high-voltage transformers that supplied power to the building.

This damage is being repaired, according to the report.

"The claims adjuster is working co-operatively with the city to review the invoices (construction costs, professional services, delay claims) prior to submitting them to the insurance company," states the report.

"However, there is a possibility that the insurers will not cover all the costs associated with the water damage. If this is the case, the Insurance Reserve Fund has funds set aside for interim/ bridging costs and for any uninsured costs." BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Coun. Ross Eadie said the frontage levy is unfair to homeowners in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Frontage levy unfair: Eadie

City hall. Councillor says homeowners in lower-income areas paying higher tax

BERNICE PONTANILLA
bernice.pontanilla@metronews.ca

A veteran city councillor is calling for the end of the frontage levy, calling it unfair to low- and fixed-income homeowners.

Coun. Ross Eadie criticized the frontage levy on Friday because it's based solely on the footage of a property, not the value of the home on that property.

Eadie believes the better alternative is to do away with the frontage levy and simply increase the announced 2.3 per cent property-tax hike by 1.37 per cent to make up the $6.7-million shortfall.

"It's about people's ability to pay. Let's be fair," said Eadie after a meeting of the Winnipeg Police Board, of which he is a member.

"We know that (Mayor Brian Bowman) is not keeping taxes below the CPI (Consumer Price Index) inflation because the frontage levy is there too."

In an email to media, Eadie compared two homes — one on Lusted Avenue in North Point Douglas worth $104,000 and a $880,000 Park Boulevard home in Charleswood — to show how the frontage levy changes the payment increase.

Response

A spokesperson for the mayor's office said Bowman will wait until Eadie makes his presentation to the executive policy committee before commenting.

"Why should a Lusted (Avenue) resident in Mynarski have to pay a 5.56 per cent tax increase while a Park Boulevard resident in Charleswood Tuxedo pays a 3.32 per cent increase?" wrote Eadie. "Let all property taxpayers pay a 3.67 per cent increase to be fair."

Eadie said he'll bring his concerns to Wednesday's meeting of the executive policy committee.

THINK CROPS, NOT CHRYSANTHEMUMS

WHAT'S GOOD
Ace Burpee
winnipeg@metronews.ca

True beauty

Imagine a city with crops growing all over the place to look after our own. Not as aesthetically beautiful as flowers, perhaps, but it might actually be a better look.

The recent City of Winnipeg budget included a few areas where money was being cut to save cash that has been designated elsewhere.

One of these cutbacks is fewer flowers being sown in the city's planters.

Here's an idea: 60,000 people need the help of Winnipeg Harvest every month so they can eat, and 45 per cent of them are children. So, we use some, or all, city planters to grow vegetables and turn the crop over to Winnipeg Harvest.

Companies, individuals or families could adopt certain planters and tend to them.

Imagine a city with crops growing all over the place to look after our own. Not as aesthetically beautiful as flowers, perhaps, but it might actually be a better look.

Or, we turn over planters directly to those in need. Learning to grow your own food is a fantastic and empowering skill to posses and would have long-term benefits.

There are probably a hundred arguments against this idea, but there are tens of thousands for it.

This project obviously can't come free, but I know it would look like an attractive branding opportunity for a corporate sponsor or two. We can start small if we like and see if there's something there.

I'm willing to help and I know countless others would be willing to step up.

It's something to think about, anyway. Have a great week, Winnipeg.

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Rock stars shine bright at the MTS Centre

Chad Kroeger of Nickelback performs at the MTS Centre on Sunday night. The rock supergroup was in town as part of its No Fixed Address Tour. DAVID LIPNOWSKI/FOR METRO

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HUDSON'S BAY

CN train. Derailment spurs concerns over oil transport

Another train derailment in northern Ontario has added new fuel to the ongoing debate over whether rail is a safe way of transporting crude oil.

First Nations and environmentalists are among those expressing alarm over Saturday's derailment of a CN Rail train that causing numerous tank cars carrying crude oil to catch fire and spill into a local river system.

CN said Sunday there were 94 cars on the train, all carrying Alberta crude to Eastern Canada when approximately 30 of them derailed near Gogama, Ont, about 80 kilometres south of Timmins.

Some of the cars caught fire and some crude entered the Mattagami River System.

Chief Walter Naveau of the Mattagami First Nation says his community does not feel safe after the third CN derailment in northern Ontario in less than a month. There are concerns over the effects of smoke inhalation and environmental damage, he said.

CN said residents will likely see smoke rising from the derailment site but that this poses no threat to people or the environment.

CN also said it's taken measures to contain any spilled oil and will work to stop it from spreading into the local river system. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"People in the community were feeling the affects of the toxins in the air — respiratory problems, they could feel it in their chests and their breathing."

Chief Walter Naveau of the Mattagami First Nation

Jobs. Tory MP apologizes after 'offensive' remarks

A Conservative MP has apologized for using "offensive and inappropriate language" related to Canada's temporary foreign workers program.

Media outlet iPolitics is reporting that New Brunswick MP John Williamson told delegates at a conference in Ottawa that it makes no sense to pay "whities" to stay home while companies bring in "brown people" as temporary foreign workers. Williamson posted a series of tweets Saturday to apologize for language he used in reference to the controversial federal program, but he did not elaborate on what he said.

"Today I used offensive and inappropriate language regarding the Temporary Foreign Workers Program," he wrote on Twitter. "For this I apologize unreservedly."

Williamson, a former communications director for Prime Minister Stephen Harper, also wrote he believes different parts of the country have different labour needs. He said employers in his riding should try to fill job openings by giving Canadian workers priority.

IPolitics reports that Williamson made the remarks in response to a question at a conservative policy conference about the shortage of workers in meat packing and processing plants. The report says Williamson responded by saying he realized labour shortages have been a bigger problem in Western Canada than his own region. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fahmy to advocate for free press

Canadian acting bureau chief of Al Jazeera English, Mohamed Fahmy, left, leaves a court with his fiancée Marwa Omara after a hearing in his retrial Sunday in Cairo, Egypt. The retrial of Fahmy and another Al Jazeera English journalist, Baher Mohammed, who face terror-related charges in Egypt, has been postponed until March 19. The Canadian journalist says he wants to make every moment of his time count. To that end, Fahmy is launching an organization that will advocate for imprisoned members of the press, named the Fahmy Foundation for Free Press. The 40-year-old was recently released on bail after more than a year in a Cairo prison.

PHOTO: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEXT: THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian soldier's death prompts conflicting stories

Sgt. Andrew Joseph Doiron. Kurdish officials say soldier was on the front lines, but a military official disputes these claims

Canadian and Kurdish officials on Sunday offered conflicting accounts of the death of a Canadian soldier in a friendly-fire incident in Iraq, with the Kurds saying he was on the front lines directing airstrikes and the Canadians saying he was not there to direct airstrikes that night and was well behind the front line when shot.

The death of Sgt. Andrew Joseph Doiron on Friday marked Canada's first casualty as part of the U.S.-led coalition's war on the extremist Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Three other Canadian soldiers were injured in the incident.

Kurdish officials said Sunday that Doiron was killed after he and other Canadian soldiers showed up to the front line unannounced to call in airstrikes.

"They went to the front line to direct airstrikes because the area was attacked by ISIS the day before," Hezhar Ismail, director of co-ordination and relations for Kurdish peshmerga forces, told The Associated Press. Peshmerga spokesman Halgurd Hekmat said a group of Canadian soldiers showed up unannounced Friday to the village of Bashiq in Iraq's Nineveh province near the militant-held city of Mosul. The area had seen heavy fighting against ISIL militants the previous day.

"When they returned, the peshmerga asked them to identify themselves," Hekmat said. "They answered in Arabic, that's when peshmerga started shooting. It was their fault." Hekmat said he doesn't know why the Canadians were there.

But Canadian Defence Minister Jason Kenney and a senior Canadian military official said the soldiers had returned to an observation post at least 200 metres behind the front line.

Quoted

"It's a regrettable case of mistaken identity. Obviously we want to know what happened."

Defence Minister Jason Kenney

The senior military official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Canadian soldiers were at the same observation post earlier in the day and co-ordinated with the Kurdish soldiers on how they would return that evening and what signals they would give. The official said the soldiers passed through two Kurdish positions before reaching the third post, where they were fired upon.

"They got lit up by one guy for reasons that are unknown to us," the official said. The official also said the Canadian soldiers were not at the front line to direct airstrikes that night.

The three injured soldiers were in stable condition. The official said Doiron's body won't be flown back to Canada until Tuesday at the earliest.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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In pictures: International Women's Day

1 Activists shout slogans during a march through the streets of the Moroccan capital as they mark International Women's Day in Rabat on Sunday. ABDELJALIL BOUNHAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 An activist shouts during a march toward the Malacanang Presidential in Manila, Philippines. The protesters, which were demanding the resignation of Philippine President Benigno Aquino III, accused him of neglecting women and their families. AARON FAVILA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 A woman holds up a placard with a feminist image combining a female gender symbol and a black-power fist during a women's-day march in Berlin. GETTY IMAGES

4 People march from the United Nations to Times Square in New York City. About 1,000 people gathered for the rally. MARK LENNIHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5 An activist performs in favour of the legalization of abortion as part of International Women's Day in Sao Paulo, Brazil. NELSON ALMEIDA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Relatives of passengers on board the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 protest near the Malaysian Embassy in Beijing on Sunday, the one-year anniversary.
NG HAN GUAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Families of Flight 370 victims won't give up

Malaysia Airlines. Despite an intensive yearlong search, no trace of the Boeing 777 has been found

Vowing never to give up on the desperate search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, family members of those aboard the plane wore symbolic T-shirts and released white balloons Sunday as they marked the anniversary of the jet's disappearance.

Gatherings were held in Kuala Lumpur, where the flight departed on March 8, 2014, and Beijing, where it was headed when it vanished with 239 people aboard. Despite an intensive yearlong search, no trace of the Boeing 777 has been found.

"My daughter asks me every day, 'Where is Daddy? Why isn't he answering his phone?'" a teary-eyed Kelly Wen, of China, said at a gathering at a Kuala Lumpur mall.

The more than 100 people who gathered wore white T-shirts bearing the picture of an airplane and the words "Search on." A video tribute to the passengers and crew members was played.

About 30 family members went on stage for speeches and a group photo.

One man dedicated a poem to his cousin Anne Daisy, who was aboard the plane. "You have been hidden from me. I don't know where to search. When will we once again meet?" Raymund Gagarin said.

Daisy's 27-year-old daughter, Grace Subathirai Nathan, then gave a speech in tribute to her mother. Nathan, who helped organize the event, said she was in London when the tragedy occurred.

"Every day is like a living nightmare. I miss my mother so much. She was to me my everything," an emotional Nathan said. "It is so important that we have some form of closure. It is so important not to give up on the people that we love."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Report

Battery had long expired

The first comprehensive report into the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 revealed Sunday that the battery of the locator beacon for the plane's data recorder had expired more than a year before the jet vanished. The report came as Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said the hunt for the plane would not end even if the scouring of the current search area off Australia's west coast comes up empty.

Thousands crowd Alabama bridge in memory of landmark civil-rights clash

Crowds take a symbolic walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, Sunday.
BILL FRAKES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands of people crowded an Alabama bridge on Sunday to commemorate a bloody confrontation 50 years ago between police and peaceful protesters that was a landmark in the civil-rights movement and helped bring about the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

A day after U.S. President Barack Obama walked atop the Edmund Pettus Bridge, people jammed shoulder-to-shoulder, many unable to move.

Police said at least 15,000 to 20,000 people had joined the crush on and around the small bridge. Many came from around the country for several related events.

William Baldwin, 69, of Montgomery, Ala., brought his two grandsons, ages 11 and 15, to the bridge Sunday so they could grasp the importance of the historic march he took part in a half-century earlier.

"They're going to take this struggle on, and we have to understand the price that was paid for them to have what they have now," Baldwin said. "It wasn't granted to them; it was earned by blood, sweat and tears." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Health. Consumers not at risk for mad cow: Expert

Canada's chief veterinary officer says some cattle associated with the investigation into a case of mad cow disease in Alberta were slaughtered over the last few years and entered the human food chain.

But Harpreet Kochhar said consumers are not at risk because of Canada's bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) safeguards.

"There is no food-safety concern here because any of these animals would have been slaughtered and the specified risk material, which is the material which actually harbours prions, (would) have been removed completely — and that is because of the enhanced feed ban," Kochhar said, adding that if any cattle displayed symptoms they would not have been brought to a slaughterhouse.

Last week, a report posted on the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) website indicated that 317 cattle out of 750 associated with the BSE investigation had been slaughtered.

The numbers refer to cattle born within one year of a BSE cow's March 2009 birth. Both numbers have since been removed from the OIE website.

Kochhar said the posting was an initial draft and the slaughter number was not correct and could be "approximately right within 95 per cent confidence."

Investigators are working to confirm the total, which will be submitted to the OIE, he said.

A typical BSE investigation takes about six months before a final report can be submitted to the OIE, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Mad cow'

BSE is a fatal and untreatable wasting disease of the brain and nervous system.

- **Cause.** BSE is caused by rogue proteins —prions — that can be spread by contaminated feed. Humans who eat infected beef can then develop the fatal disease.

NHL, Samsung Canada set to announce corporate deal

A woman uses a smartphone to take photos of an NHL game. A new partnership will give Samsung smartphone users access to NHL video content not available on other devices. JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Smartphones. Exclusive league content will be featured on Samsung's mobile devices

The NHL and Samsung Canada are expected to announce that the electronics manufacturer will become an official corporate sponsor of the league. But the deal isn't just about placing logos on rink boards.

When Samsung smartphone users download the NHL app, they'll have access to videos that iPhone and BlackBerry users can't view — specifically, edited footage from the league's "Situation Room," where officials watch videos, then issue rulings on disputes.

While fans at home and at the arena will learn the outcome of the call, Samsung users will be able to view a video explaining how officials reached their decision.

The move is an attempt to find an edge in an ultra-competitive smartphone market. According to a 2013 Ipsos-Reid survey, 29 per cent of Canadian mobile phone users have Samsung devices, while 33 per cent use iPhones.

"It's become an interesting race in the mobile space. If I can create a compelling reason for you to switch off that platform to my platform, it's beneficial for us," said Paul Brannen, Samsung Canada's senior vice-president of mobile solutions.

The agreement also taps into a synergy between Samsung's desire to feature its products and the NHL's need to keep pace with shifting viewing habits. The deal will see Samsung sponsor a blog on NHL.com, but marketing experts feel exclusive content is the most important part of the partnership.

"People want to be able to stream, and it allows Samsung to truly showcase how their products can be brought to life," said Keith McIntyre, president of the KMac Group.

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VOICES

REAL CHANGE HARD TO COME BY

Despite the disastrous leadership race, the NDP are still likely to win in 2016 as the opposition has failed to say how they would do things differently

INSIDE THE PERIMETER
Shannon VanRaes

A popular witticism, often attributed to Albert Einstein, defines insanity as "doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." Apparently the Manitoba NDP has a different definition.

After a mutiny worthy of pirate lore, months of speculation, campaigning and betrayal, the 2015 NDP leadership race ended with the same results as the 2009 leadership race — Greg Selinger as NDP leader and Manitoba premier.

Of course, there are some major differences between the two leadership races. For one, this time around, Selinger made Canadian history by becoming the first sitting premier to defend his position in a leadership convention after five cabinet ministers attempted to force his resignation. Another key difference is that the party came out of the 2009 leadership race largely unified behind Selinger. This time the party couldn't be more bitterly divided. Challenger Theresa Oswald lost by a margin of less than one per cent in the second ballot. NDP staff who supported her — or candidate Steve Ashton — will have a hard time returning to work under Selinger, and NDP members who opposed Selinger will no doubt point out that his refusal to step down as premier during the race put them at a disadvantage. And then there is the whole PST increase that started the ball rolling in the first place that will need resolution, too.

But I'm going to go out on a limb here and make a prediction: the NDP will win the 2016 election. I know, I know, it sounds insane.

I've seen all the NDP members tweeting pictures of the Titanic, read the comments and understand that the current government has completely failed to fix the portions of our health-care system that they've campaigned on for years. Yes, emergency-room wait times, I'm looking at you.

But the NDP aren't the only party doing the same thing over and over again. Manitoba's Progressive Conservatives are also doing the same song-and-dance, seeking a different result. Opposition leader Brian Pallister's rhetoric matches that of his predecessor, Hugh McFadyen. Both have stuck to the message that a vote for the NDP is a vote for financial ruin. The NDP are scary socialists; they will drive out investors and employers, tax and spend and bankrupt the province with the help of their union cronies.

But it's hard to back up those claims when the province is viewed as one of the country's economic leaders. The Conference Board of Canada predicted last month that Manitoba will outpace the national growth rate to lead the nation at three per cent by 2016.

And while the opposition has brought some important issues to light, especially in the area of health care, it has completely failed to articulate how it would do things differently.

The only wild card in the 2016 election mix is how many Manitobans will listen to their inner Canadian, that voice that says, "Let's be fair — it's been a long time, why not give the other guy a chance?" As it stands, both the government and the opposition are in a rut, and if the disastrous 2015 NDP leadership race has taught us anything, it's that real change is hard to come by.

Shannon VanRaes is a Winnipeg-based journalist and photojournalist who spends her days contributing to the Manitoba Co-operator and her nights covering urban affairs. Thanks to the bite of a radioactive spider, she no longer needs to sleep. She can be reached on Twitter @ShannonVanRaes.

Your Winnipeg

Moonlighting in St. Claude

Our columnist submitted this evocative picture of the moon rising over St. Claude, Man.
SHANNON VANRAES/FOR METRO

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Upcoming

A few more days to nominate a Future 40 under 40 Manitoban

If you know someone under 40 who is doing great things in this province, this is your chance to let that person shine.

CBC Manitoba is spearheading the Future 40 under 40 project, a way to celebrate the province's upcoming talented movers and shakers.

"Celebrating the next generation of individuals who are using their skills and abilities to make Manitoba a better place deserves to be highlighted," said John Bertrand, senior managing director at CBC Manitoba.

"We're looking for people making a difference in business, the arts, community leadership, science and a host of other categories."

When approached with the idea, Metro Winnipeg got on board.

"We know young people in this province are doing wonderful things, and they don't always get the recognition they deserve," said Elisha Dacey, managing editor of Metro Winnipeg. "This is a way to thank those who believe in Manitoba's potential and opportunity and are working to realize that potential."

Nominations are open until noon on March 12. Finalists will be selected by a panel of CBC and Metro Winnipeg judges and announced starting March 16.

Finalists will also be featured in Metro Winnipeg.

For more, visit cbc.ca/manitoba/features/future40-2015/
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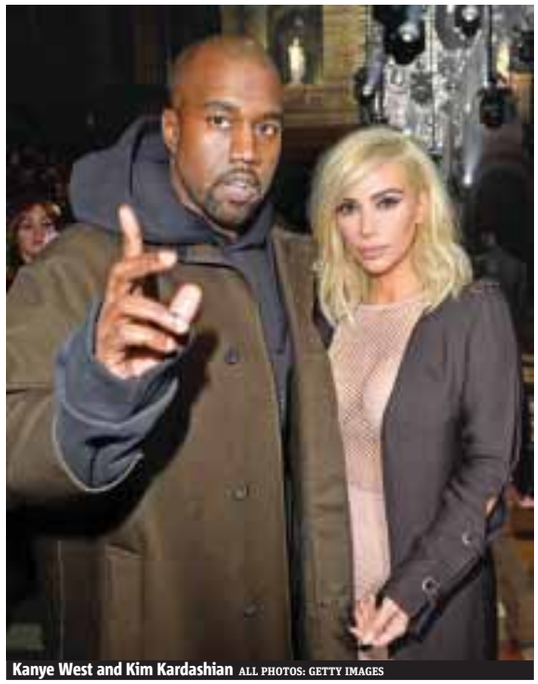
Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES



Kanye West and Kim Kardashian ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Air from Kanye concert blows up

Kardashian tweet: WOW he can sell anything! Lol

I'm honestly surprised it took this long for the Internet to reach this level of crazy.

One trailblazing eBay auctioneer put up a sealed plastic bag purported to contain "air from Kanye show," which sounds pretty stupid — until you find out about the nearly 100 bidders who drove the price up over $60,000 over the course of the weekend before the whole thing was scrapped by eBay.

Air from Kanye show.

But copycats haven't let that bummer ending deter them, as several similar posts have gone live, including another bag of West air — but this time infused with bay leaves — and a bag of air from a Garth Brooks concert.

You can also grab a bag of West's flatulence for the bargain "buy it now" price of five bucks.

Good luck getting a certificate of authenticity, though.

Amal to teach at Columbia

George Clooney is coming to New York this spring to film Money Monster, and his wife won't just be hanging around seeing the sights.

Amal Clooney has announced that she will be teaching a course on human rights at Columbia Law School for the upcoming semester.

"It is an honour to be invited as a visiting professor at Columbia Law School alongside such a distinguished faculty and talented student pool," she says in a statement.

"I look forward to getting to know the next generation of human rights advocates studying here."

Amal Clooney

Cate Blanchett adopts baby

A spokeswoman for the actress said Friday that Blanchett and husband Andrew Upton have adopted a baby girl. Edith Vivian Patricia Upton joins the couple's three sons, ages 6, 10 and 13. Publicist Stephanie Gonzalez said no other details will be provided. Blanchett can next be seen on the big screen in Disney's Cinderella. The 45-year-old actress won her second Academy Award last year: best actress for Blue Jasmine.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cate Blanchett

Kemper loves dark comedy Tina Fey wrote for her

Ellie Kemper as Kimmy Schmidt ERIC LIEBOWITZ/COURTESY OF NETFLIX

Most people are trying to hide one or two weird things about themselves in their day-to-day lives, but Kimmy Schmidt, the main character in the new Tina Fey Netflix show Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt, is hiding something a bit weirder. She's just escaped a doomsday cult after 15 years, but that isn't stopping her from trying to make a go of it in New York City. And who better to play the wide-eyed innocence of someone who grew up in an underground bunker than Ellie Kemper, who's made something of a specialty of playing innocents?

Why do you think people like casting you as these innocent characters?

I have a really big face, so I think that when I smile, it's just a big smile, because it's in proportion to the rest of my face. Some of the characters I play err on the side of ditzy, but Kimmy is not a ditz. I think any lack of knowledge she has is purely from a lack of experience and not a lack of intelligence. There's a resourcefulness and a craftiness there that enables her to go through those 15 years in the bunker. You can't be a survivor unless you are smart. It reminds me of Will Ferrell's character in Elf. Everything is new and shiny to her because she hasn't been there before. But when she does say things that might seem a little clownish or goofy, it's purely from a lack of experience.

The show has a pretty dark premise. How do you balance that with the humour?

I think the subject matter is so serious and tragic and dark and needs to be dealt with very carefully. I think (co-creator Robert Carlock) and Tina did a great job of treating such a dark premise and were able to make a comedy from it. Writing is so key to that, of course, and I think that when something tragic or dark does happen, it doesn't mean you have to shy away from comedy.

LISA WEIDENFELD/METRO U.S.

France takes Anglo angle in bid for TV supremacy

New series. With a $30-million budget and an English script, France hopes the show Versailles will capture a global audience

Back in the day, the prospect of a French king speaking English would have been enough to trigger a century-long war.

Not any more, as evidenced by what will be France's most-expensive TV series ever: Versailles, a period mini-series of 10 episodes that will come out at the end of this year.

The makers of the series, about the famous Palace of Versailles outside Paris and King Louis XIV who had it built, have bowed before the inescapable domination of English as the global language of entertainment.

Thus their French king, one of history's most iconic monarchs, is British. Indeed, most of the cast is British or Canadian. French performers are relegated to supporting roles or in the background.

The reason for such sacrilege in a country known for protecting its language and culture is simple: France no longer wants to sit on the sidelines of the international resurgence in television.

It has seen the revolution sweeping the small screen, with cinema-grade productions being made by new players including Netflix and Amazon, and it wants to be part of it. And that means adopting English.

It also means spending big. At $30 million (around $3 million per episode, each taking 12 days to film), Versailles is the costliest TV production put on in France.

That's the sort of cash an "American super-production" would throw at the screen, boasts George Blagden, the English actor who incarnates the 28-year-old Louis XIV.

The producers — France's Canal+, Capa Drama and Zodiak Fiction allied with Canada's Incendo — are gambling their series can win the same worldwide business generated by the British-Irish-Canadian TV hit The Tudors, or the British drama Downton Abbey.

Claude Chelli, of Capa Drama, makes no bones about it. He says the decision to film Versailles in English was "to ensure the biggest international distribution possible."

The script itself is also crafted in English by Simon Mirren (former executive producer the U.S. series Criminal Minds) and David Wolstencroft (who created the well-received spy series Spooks).

Six months of filming wrapped up last week with a torture scene in the underground of a castle watched over by Blagden, 25, who exudes regal airs under a wig of long curls and a vest adorned with braids.

"Even pros from American television would have immediately thought themselves on a film set," the blue-eyed actor said.

AFP

The story

Versailles focuses on the early years of the reign of Louis XIV — the grand and self-proclaimed "Sun King" — when he ordered the vast and vastly expensive Palace of Versailles be built to house his court away from Paris and its intrigues.

In the show Versailles, the pomp and elegance of King Louis's court will be on display in front of the actual palace, seen here. THOMAS SAMSON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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Hollywood. No apology from Penn

Sean Penn has opened up about the green card joke heard around the world. He talked about it Saturday in Beverly Hills during a promotional tour for his new film The Gunman, saying that he has "absolutely no apologies" for his comment. The actor-director also offered up choice words for those who didn't recognize the irony in his remarks.

"I'm always surprised by flagrant stupidity. I keep having more hope," said Penn of the widespread outrage that followed the moment.

On Feb. 22 at the 87th Academy Awards, Penn, tasked with presenting the best picture award, made waves when he opened the envelope and first asked "Who gave this son of a bitch his green card?" before announcing the winner as Birdman.

Directed by the Mexican-born Alejandro Inarritu, many wondered whether the joke was distasteful.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Homeland. Fifth season to be set in Germany, Carrie no longer a CIA officer

Time will fly between the fourth and fifth season of the Showtime spy drama Homeland, the series' executive producer Alex Gansa said.

"We're going to take about a two-year forward jump," Gansa said Friday at the opening night of PaleyFest, the annual TV celebration at the Dolby Theatre.

On the purple carpet, Gansa said the next Homeland season will be filmed in Europe, most likely in Berlin. He said the setting would be Germany.

The fourth season of Homeland was shot in Cape Town, South Africa, which doubled for Islamabad and Kabul.

Gansa later told the PaleyFest audience that CIA officer Carrie Mathison, played by series star Claire Danes, will no longer be an intelligence officer.

Many of the Homeland crew members said the fourth season was critical to the series, given the death of the character Brody, portrayed by Damian Lewis, on the third season. So the show got a "reboot," said director Lesli Linka Glatter, referring to the fourth season's new plot direction and darker-than-ever twists.

Showtime renewed the show for a fifth season in November. PaleyFest organizers said about 20,000 fans were expected over the course of the 10-day festival. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Claire Danes
GETTY IMAGES

We're going to Mars this week with Andy Weir's amazing eBook and on a trip to Disneyland with a fun camera app.

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
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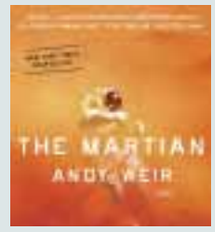

The Martian

By. Andy Weir

Kindle/iBooks/Kobo

Stranded on Mars, astronaut Mark Watney can't stop laughing. His life expectancy is dire, his isolation is bleak, yet he perseveres in this well-researched survival thriller.

Stop making debt excuses

Money management. It's easy to find reasons why you're not digging yourself out of a financial hole, but you need to face reality

GAIL VAZ-OXLADE
Gail blogs daily at gailvazoxlade.com

Every time I think I've heard it all, someone pops up with a new way to excuse the fact that they're up to their eyeballs in debt. While the most recent research says that people are slowing their consumption of debt, and we should all feel good about that, I hear from a lot of people that haven't yet got the message. They're still saying things like this:

"We got a consolidation loan and paid off our credit cards." Really, you paid off your debt with other debt? That is not paid off, my little chickadee.

Consolidation makes sense when you lower your interest costs and then work aggressively to repay the debt. But if you're sitting back smugly because you've found a less expensive way to go broke, give your head a shake.

"Everybody's in debt, so what's the big deal?" And if everyone were running naked down the highway you'd do that, too? There's no question that debt has become so pervasive that it seems like everyone's in it.

And if you grew up in a family that had it all, including the debt, you may think this is "normal." It's not! You can make the choice to remain a money moron, or you can choose financial stability.

"I don't have time to budget." Really, your most important resource and you don't have the time to manage it? Could it be that your priorities are a little skewed? Did you know that men spend about 3.5 hours and women 2.75 hours every day watching TV?

Hey, you only need to reallocate a measly half-hour each week to money management to go from being a financial slug to not.

"My partner is the problem." I've met couples where one person is the major culprit. The other person stands meekly by as Mr. or Mrs. I-have-to-have-everything charges them into a debt hole. They shrug and claim to have no ability to change their partner's behaviour.

Here's my big question: Is this the way you're going to live the rest of your life, walking a tightrope, waiting for the axe to fall? And if you have children, do you think this is creating any sense of security?

These are the same people who turn around and use their debt as the excuse for why they're not stashing away some money for the future. Even those who think they're working hard at paying down their debt are often doing little more than throwing money at their debt. They've never taken the time to figure out how much goes to interest and how much is actually paying down the balance.

If you're serious about getting out of debt, you're not just looking at the minimum payment to keep your credit score nice and shiny. You've set a deadline and done the math to meet that deadline.

Know that if you extend the amount of time you take to pay off the debt, you'll end up paying far more in interest.

Debt-free in three steps

Here is a step-by-step guide to get out of a single debt. You must do this for every consumer debt you have.

1. Take your credit card balance, multiply by the interest rate, and divide by 12. That's the monthly interest you're paying to carry that debt. So if you're $13,500 is costing you 18.9 per cent in interest, it's costing you 13500 x 18.9 ÷ 100 ÷12 = $212.62 a month in interest.

2. Take the balance and divide by the number of months in which you want to be out of debt. So if your balance is $13,500 and you want to be out of debt in 24 months, it'd be $13,500 ÷ 24. That'll give you your monthly principal repayment of $562.50.

3. Add the two together to get your monthly payment. $212.62+562.50 = $775.12. If the payment seems to be bigger than you can manage, you have two options:

a) You can extend the number of months for the principal repayment calculation.

b) You can make more money.

Sometimes in relationships, there's a Mr. I-have-to-have-everything whose spending habits don't allow the couple to pay down debt. ISTOCK

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Advice

I'm losing my loonies at lunch hour

OFFICE SPACE
Eleni Deacon
life@metronews.ca

Dear Metro,
I spend about $50-75 per week buying lunch at various restaurants near my office. It's a huge waste of money, but I hate cooking and have no foresight when it comes to planning meals. I know I'll never manage to bring my lunch every single day, but I'd like to cut my spending in half. Any tips?
—Friends & Rivals

Dear F&R,
There are lots of lunch-packing strategies that don't involve an oven or a wooden spoon. You may, however, have to visit a grocery store. Don't start with a three-course feast. Simple sandwiches—basic bologna, classic PB&J—are an easy way to integrate home-assembled specialties into your takeout routine. The ingredients cost as much as one bento box, but will last several lunches.

And you know that strange room where your co-workers always go? That's your office kitchen. Use it! During your Monday lunch hour, grab salad fixings at a nearby market, then store them in the fridge for use throughout the week. Or stock one drawer of your desk with canned soup. Despite your culinary aversion, consider mastering a few big-yield staples. Chili and stir-fry are not only easy to make, they also taste better the next day.

Dear Metro,
I work at a digital agency where we're constantly pitching new campaign ideas. Although I work hard to come up with fun concepts, my boss nixes everything I suggest. I've tried big ideas, conservative ideas, super-wacky ideas—nothing gets the thumbs-up. I'm starting to think it's personal! How can I break past this creative roadblock?
— Quit Ignoring Meeee

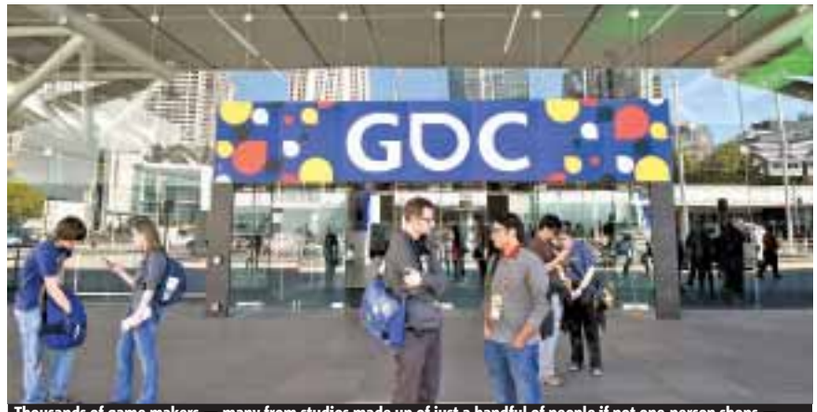
Dear QIM,
Your ideas may be fun—but are they good? Before retaliating, do some self-evaluating.

Maybe your big ideas weren't feasible within budget. Maybe your fun ideas didn't quite capture the client's brand. And your wacky ideas might just be off the mark. The first step to being heard: delivering pitches worth a listen. Still getting nowhere? Get to know your boss. Pay attention to the ideas that do move forward, taking note of what they have that yours don't. Rather than fixating on a suspected personal vendetta, focus on your own personal growth. Tell your superior that you want to improve your performance, and ask for guidance. If they seem opposed to the entire concept of your success, consider a new idea: finding a different job.

ELENI DEACON IS A TORONTO-BASED WRITER WHO HAS SEEN IT ALL AS AN EAGER EMPLOYEE OF BIG OFFICES, SMALL OFFICES, HOME OFFICES AND ONE ITALIAN RESTAURANT.

Video game makers are taking it to the next level on their own

Work. Independent studios boldly taking on blockbusters in an evolving gaming world



Thousands of game makers — many from studios made up of just a handful of people if not one-person shops — attended the Game Developers Conference in San Francisco last week to share insights and hone their craft. AFP PHOTO

"This is the largest family reunion of game developers in the year," International Game Developers Association chief executive Kate Edwards told AFP at the Game Developers Conference in San Francisco last week.

Veterans from big-name studios behind Triple A console games were in the crowd and headlining sessions, but independent game makers were being touted as the people shaking up the industry with creative new approaches to play.

"Indie game makers are basically democratizing game development," Edwards said.

"It is one of the most exciting things we have seen in this industry in a long time; I think it is a form of revolution."

At the heart of the revolution is the fact that tools for making video games are ubiquitous and often free, meaning people can take a shot at it the same way they could get pencil and paper to try writing a book, according to Edwards.

Distribution of independent games is equally accessible through online services such as Steam or Apple's App Store or Google Play which stock shelves with digital games for play on smartphones or tablets.

Quoted

"Indie game makers are basically democratizing game development. It is one of the most exciting things we have seen in this industry in a long time."

Kate Edwards
International Game Developers Association chief executive

Risk takers

Game developer Jenna Hoffstein founded Little Worlds Interactive studio in Boston, where she is a member of a collective of indies.

She works solo, farming some work out to contractors while producing games. Her latest title, Counting Kingdom, has won raves for combining education with fun.

Titles being developed by others in the collective include a rhythm game that casts a player as a monkey trying to save the rainforest, and Robot Roller Derby Disco Dodge Ball, which Hoffstein said was pretty much what the name suggested.

Independent studios tend to take a lot more creative risk than big operations behind Triple A titles, perhaps because launching a dud of a game could cost hundreds of workers their jobs along with losing millions of dollars in production costs, those interviewed by AFP reasoned.

"The indie scene is really this proliferation of interesting, unique, possibly total-failure ideas," Hoffstein said. "Because the independent is only risking their own salary, we have these zany, unique, off-the-wall ideas."

Examples include mobile puzzle game Monument Valley, influenced by minimalist sculpture and challenges players with optical illusions.

Console kings court indies

Powerhouse video-game console makers Sony and Microsoft have both been reaching out to independent game makers, enticing them to play on PlayStation 4 and Xbox One, respectively.

"When the new consoles came out it, was a clear sign from the biggest players in the industry that some of the best innovation right now in terms of game content is coming from indies," Edwards said.

"Big publishers want to be part of that — to get that really cool content."

Independent games broaden diversity of console play, providing lighter options to big-budget blockbusters such as Skyrim, Halo, and Destiny.

"There will always be someone who wants that really huge, massive game; it is like going to see a film in IMAX 3D," said Edwards.

"But, then there are going to be people perfectly happy playing a game on their phone. There is room for all of them." AFP

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A slam dunk for gender equality

Workplace. Facebook's Sheryl Sandberg enlists NBA stars to persuade more men to support women's rights

Facebook executive Sheryl Sandberg has enlisted NBA stars LeBron James, Stephen Curry and some of the basketball league's other top players to convince more men to join the fight for women's rights at home and at work.

The players will deliver the message in public service announcements aired during NBA games on major TV networks over the next few months.

Sandberg is hoping to persuade men that they will be better off financially and emotionally if they take more responsibility for housework and child care, while also backing equal rights for women at work.

"Gender equality doesn't just benefit women, it benefits men in lots of ways," Sandberg said in an interview with The Associated Press. Among other things, she believes most women are likely to have sex with their husbands or partners more frequently when they get more help at home — a phenomenon she has branded as "choreplay."

The clips featuring the basketball stars are part of a partnership between the NBA and LeanIn.org, a nonprofit group Sandberg started two years ago with the publication of a bestselling book advising women on the steps they should take to ensure they get the same opportunities as men traditionally have.

Quoted

"The only way anything really changes in society is when we have everyone in society pulling together."

Sheryl Sandberg
Chief operating officer of Facebook

The book, Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead, also urged men to do more to support the women and girls in their lives.

Sandberg, Facebook's second-highest ranking executive behind CEO Mark Zuckerberg, is counting on the NBA's appeal to connect with millions of sports-loving men who haven't read her book.

LeanIn.org is providing men with tips on how to help in brochures that will be available online as part of the campaign with the NBA.

Facebook is among a long list of major Silicon Valley companies with a dearth of women in engineering and other technical positions, where the best-paying jobs are found.

"Certainly technology has an uphill battle to fight, but no industry has gotten to where it should be," Sandberg said. "The only way anything really changes in society is when we have everyone in society pulling together."

Several technology companies, including Facebook, Google, Yahoo and Microsoft are backing a campaign that will be punctuated with #LeanInTogether.

The National Basketball Association has been running a separate league for women for nearly 20 years. Several WNBA players, including All-Stars Sue Bird and Skylar Diggins, appear in the public service announcement that also features the Golden State Warriors' Curry and the Cleveland Cavaliers' James, the players who got the most votes in the fan balloting for last month's NBA All-Star game.

The union representing the NBA players also elected a woman, Michele Roberts, as its executive director last year. Meanwhile, the San Antonio Spurs hired woman, former WNBA star Becky Hammon, as an assistant coach at the start of this season.

"The NBA is committed to creating a work environment that expects — and benefits from —gender equality," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sandberg has enlisted NBA stars LeBron James, Stephen Curry and some of the basketball league's other top players to convince more men to join the fight forwomen's rights. RICHARD DREW / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Students flying back into black with points

Education. Aeroplan points just another way to pay down student loan: Minister

LEAH HOLOIDAY
leah.holoiday@metronews.ca

Convincing their parents to fly them to Cuba for reading week just got easier for some of Alberta's post-secondary students as the province will now accept travel reward miles to pay down student loans.

The program, launched in January, allows students to pay back their student debt with Aeroplan miles.

For 35,000 points, students will skim $250 off their loan.

Innovation and advanced education minister Don Scott called the program an "innovative repayment option" that gives students another way to payback school debt.

Students at eight Alberta schools are able to use their Aeroplan points to pay for tuition. ISTOCK

"Anyone can donate their points to support any student perusing their goal of post-secondary education," said Scott about the Higher Ed Points program.

Not only will students be allowed to pay with points for loans, pupils from eight Alberta institutions can also use the travel rewards to pay for tuition meal plans and residency.

"It's a really innovative way to address a student loan," said Scott. "If you have friends that travel a lot hopefully they'll be quite excited to help a student with their education."

Scott said he would like to see a strong student aid and student loan program in the province and programs like Higher Ed Points is just one way to give students more options.

"Right now we have loans, bursaries and grants and as we go forward, I'm looking to strengthen that system."

Tyler Ludwig, president Concordia Student Association, said anything that makes it easier for students to pay back loans a good move, but suspects most of the travel rewards will be coming from students' parents.

"I think the only way it's going to really work is if parents have Aeroplan points. I think students for the most part — they're not spending outrageous amounts of money to get Aeroplan points," he said.

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ROSE REISMAN
For more, visit rosereisman.com or follow her on twitter @rosereisman

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

A mild white fish like Tilapia goes well with a flavourful topping.

This sautéed mushroom and almond crust is the perfect match.

You can use any mushroom you like, but my favourites are either oyster or brown mushrooms.

Be sure to sauté them long enough to eliminate excess moisture.

Use any nut of your choice, such as pecans or even pistachios for colour.

A hot oven of 425 F will ensure a crisper topping.

Tilapia is available all year long either fresh or frozen. You can substitute with grouper, halibut, haddock or basa.

This recipe serves four. ROSE REISMAN

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425 F.

2. Line a baking sheet with foil sprayed with vegetable oil.

3. In large skillet, add oil and sauté mushrooms, garlic, salt and pepper for 5 to 8 minutes or until cooked and moisture has evaporated.

4. Place in the bowl of food processor, along with almonds, parsley and juice.

5. Pulse just until well mixed.

6. Spread Dijon thinly over top of fish.

7. Pat mushroom mixture over top of fish and bake for 10 minutes per inch of thickness.

8. Garnish with parsley and lemon wedges.

THE BEST OF ROSE REISMAN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN

Ingredients

- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 2 cups chopped wild mushrooms
- 1 1/2 tsp minced garlic
- Salt and pepper
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds
- 2 tbsp chopped parsley
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1 1/2 lb tilapia or other white firm fish

Garnish

- Chopped parsley
- 4 lemon wedges

Dining out. Toque! named Canada's best restaurant

Montreal restaurant Toque! has topped a list of the country's 100 best restaurants.

Hawksworth Restaurant at the Rosewood Hotel Georgia in Vancouver is No. 2 on the list, which was compiled by the new magazine Canada's 100 Best Restaurants.

Toronto's Buca, Raymonds in St. John's, N.L., and Splendido in Toronto round out the top five.

Seventy of the nation's chefs, gourmets and industry leaders were asked to submit a list, in order of preference, of what they believed to be the best restaurants. No judge could vote for a restaurant they owned, worked for, have a financial interest in, or consult for.

"Next year's results in the 2016 issue will show which of them is getting better, who is slipping — and what new talent is giving the old guard a run," says Jacob Richler, editor-in-chief of the magazine.

Chef and owner Normand Laprise at Montreal's Toque!. CONTRIBUTED

Some of the top picks in the magazine include recipes so home cooks can try replicating the signature dishes.

For the complete list visit canadas100best.com. The magazine hits newsstands March 20. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Veggie-rich pea soup a hearty meal

A hearty split pea and rice soup can be a meal in itself. With all the vegetables needed, you won't even need a side salad!

The green peas and brown rice give you a complete protein nutritionally so this is a perfect dish for vegetarians.

Directions

1. In a nonstick saucepan sprayed with vegetable spray, heat the oil over medium heat. Add the garlic and onions. Cook for 4 minutes or until softened.

2. Stir in the stock, potatoes, split peas, rice, bay leaves, basil and oregano. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat to medium-low, cover and cook for 20 - 25 minutes or until the peas and rice are tender.

3. Stir in the green beans, tomatoes, salt and pepper. Cook, covered, for 5 minutes or until the green beans are tender-crisp. Garnish with Parmesan.

THE BEST OF ROSE REISMAN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN

Ingredients

- 1 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 tsp minced garlic
- 3/4 cup chopped onions
- 6 cups vegetable or chicken stock
- 1 cup diced sweet potatoes
- 1/2 cup dried green split peas
- 1/3 cup brown rice
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 tsp dried basil
- 1 1/2 tsp dried oregano
- 1 1/2 cups green beans cut in 1-inch pieces
- 1 cup diced plum tomatoes
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper

Garnish

1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

This recipe serves eight. ROSE REISMAN

A sick timeline. Influenza's greatest hits

JACQUELINE KOVACS
For Metro

If you have been felled by this year's flu, it may be a small comfort to know that this nasty, mutating virus has been around for at least 2,000 years, even if folks didn't label it quite correctly.

Here is a look at influenza's greatest hits over the centuries.

4th century BC: Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine, doesn't name the virus, but notes the symptoms. It's a tricky illness to identify since many of its miserable symptoms are found in other ailments.

1493: A sickness that looks a lot like the flu wipes out most of the indigenous people in the Antilles, shortly after world explorer Christopher Columbus arrives.

1580: The flu breaks out in Russia and spreads to Europe via Africa. Spain loses almost entire cities to the virus, and it kills more than 8,000 people in Rome.

1918: The Spanish flu, one of the worst and most infamous flu pandemics, strikes and takes the lives of between 50 million and 100 million people.

1957: Thought to have originated in China, Asian flu wipes out about two million people, according to the World Health Organization.

1968: Hong Kong flu kills about one million people globally. It then returns in 1969, 1970 and 1972.

1977: Russian flu appears in Northern China and is similar to the Asian flu of 1957. Because of its similarity, those who had survived the earlier Asian flu tend to have immunities.

2002 and 2003: New strains of flu appear, including H5N1, H7N7 and H10MN7.

2005-2009: Humans infected with H5N1 appear in such places as China, Eastern Turkey, Iraq, Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nigeria, Vietnam and Bangladesh.

2009: H1N1, a flu originating in swine, is declared a pandemic by the WHO. It's the same strain that caused the Spanish flu in 1918.

The flu virus has been causing havoc around the world for at least 2,000 years. SHUTTERSTOCK

Avoiding the virus

- How can you avoid the flu? A healthy lifestyle, including a well-balanced diet, plenty of sleep, good hygiene — especially frequent handwashing — and staying well hydrated can go a long way. A flu vaccine can help you go the distance. Sure, some years they may be only 50 per cent effective, but as the medical community points out, that's a 50 per cent better chance that you may not catch the virus.

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PHC-13942

4 SPORTS

Race walking

Diniz sets new world record

European champion Yohann Diniz set a world record in the 20-kilometre race walk at the French championships on Sunday.

The 37-year-old Diniz clocked a time of 1 hour, 17 minutes, 2 seconds — beating the previous mark by 14 seconds.

Diniz's latest exploit comes nine months after he broke the 50-kilometre world record at last year's Euros in Zurich.

He went through the 15K mark in 58:00, just off world-record pace, and then sped up to cover the last five-kilometre section in a little more than 19 minutes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

College hoops

Basketbrawl

A day after a bench-clearing fight ended the Southwestern Athletic Conference women's basketball regular-season title game in a double forfeit, the conference was reviewing the incident.

With 12:36 left in the game Saturday, a fight broke out between Southern and Texas Southern. Southern was leading 51-49 at the time. Texas Southern's Miracle Davis had just drawn a charge underneath the basket.

It was the second incident involving Southern this season. In a game against Alabama A&M on Feb. 21, three players were ejected early in the second half for fighting.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian skip Braden Calvert delivers a rock at the World Junior Curling Championships 2015 in Tallinn, Estonia, Sunday. Canada beat Switzerland 6-3 to take the men's title. RICHARD GRAY/WORLD CURLING FEDERATION, HO, THE CANADIAN PRESS

Winnipeg men's rink garners junior gold

Curling. Canadian rinks dominate world events in Estonia

Braden Calvert defeated Switzerland 6-3 to capture the men's title Sunday at the world junior curling championships, and Kelsey Rocque completed the Canadian golden sweep with an 8-2 women's victory over Scotland.

Calvert and his Winnipeg-based team of Kyle Kurz, Lucas Van Den Bosch and Brendan Wilson shot an impressive 91.5 per cent overall in the final at the Tondiraba Ice Hall. They finished fourth at last year's worlds.

Rocque successfully defended her women's crown to join Scotland's Eve Muirhead as the only female skips to win back-to-back world junior titles. Rocque's Edmonton team included Danielle Schmiemann, Holly Jamieson and Jessica Iles.

In the men's final, Canada picked up a deuce in the second end and stole singles in the fourth and sixth ends. Switzerland finally got on the board in the seventh with a draw for one to the eight-foot.

The teams exchanged deuces before Calvert ran the Swiss side out of rocks in the 10th for the win.

"It's just unbelievable," said Calvert. "When you start the season, you never quite picture that it's going to end up like this.

"It's pretty special to not only bring home a medal, but a gold medal. It's just icing on the cake."

Calvert felt an increased work ethic led to his team's success this year.

"We just beared down and worked a little bit harder going into this season," he said. "We threw a ton of rocks in Winnipeg and it really shows when you get out here."

Scotland took the men's bronze with an 8-3 win over Sweden. Switzerland edged Sweden 7-6 in the women's third-place game.

It was the sixth time in world juniors history that Canada has swept the gold medals. The only other nation to win men's and women's gold at the same tournament was Scotland in 1993. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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La Liga

Messi hat trick boosts Barca to win, league lead

Lionel Messi scored a hat trick to help Barcelona rout Rayo Vallecano 6-1 at home and take the lead of the Spanish league on Sunday.

Barcelona capitalized on Real Madrid's latest slip to move one point ahead, with the fierce rivals set to meet at Camp Nou in two weeks.

Lionel Messi GETTY IMAGES

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FA Cup

Liverpool's attack goes limp in draw with Blackburn

Liverpool was held 0-0 by second-tier Blackburn in the FA Cup quarter-finals as the Premier League's in-form team lost its attacking sparkle at Anfield on Sunday.

Blackburn came close to causing a huge shock, dominating parts of the first half after an eight-minute delay early in the game following an injury to Liverpool defender Martin Skrtel in an aerial challenge. Skrtel was wearing a neck brace as he was carried off on a stretcher, but Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers said the centre back was "fine."

Aston Villa beat West Bromwich Albion 2-0 and is the only team through to the semifinals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

McCoy cashes in with Buffalo Bills

Five days after the Philadelphia Eagles agreed to trade LeSean McCoy, the star running back agreed on a newly restructured five-year, $40-million contract with the Buffalo Bills.

Both deals will take effect on Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

CJ2K shot in stopped vehicle

New York Jets running back Chris Johnson and another passenger were shot in their shoulders while stopped at a traffic light in Orlando overnight, and the driver of the vehicle they were in was killed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sanchez is back to his stingy self

MLB. Young pitcher blanks Pirates for three innings in Jays' loss

Blue Jays starting pitcher Aaron Sanchez throws a pitch against the Pirates in Dunedin, Fla., on Sunday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

On Sunday

Pirates	Blue Jays
1	0

Toronto right-hander Aaron Sanchez was back to his stingy self Sunday, rebounding from a shaky spring debut to throw three scoreless innings against the Pittsburgh Pirates.

"I felt good out there," said the 22-year-old Sanchez, whose 41-pitch effort was perfect other than a walk. "Obviously my first start, it is what it is.... So to get back out there and get my feet wet and then go out there and do what I did today is just something to build off."

The Pirates pitchers were just as good, with seven of them combining for a 1-0 victory on a sunny 22-degree day at Florida Auto Exchange Stadium.

Pittsburgh out hit Toronto 6-3, with two of those hits coming in a ninth inning that saw Ryan Goins hit into a double play.

Sanchez is competing for the role of fifth starter but could well be headed back to the role of closer in his second major-league season. With Daniel Norris and Marco Estrada, Toronto has other options to join R.A. Dickey, Mark Buehrle, Marcus Stroman and Drew Hutchison in the rotation.

There is no obvious alternate at closer. Brett Cecil has put his hand up for the job and could see some action there, but manager John Gibbons seems to want Cecil as a left-handed option to extinguish fires earlier in the game.

Cecil is currently on the shelf with an inflamed shoulder but is expected to resume throwing next week.

"At the end of the day they're the ones going to be making the decisions," said Sanchez. "And I'm going to be the one, whether it's starting or closing, who's going to be happy. So to me it doesn't matter."

Sanchez opened with two perfect innings, recording two strikeouts and four infield outs. He was helped by stellar fielding plays by first baseman Justin Smoak and second baseman Maicer Izturis.

A walk, stolen base and throwing error by catcher Dioner Navarro put a man on third with two outs in the third, but Sanchez struck out Steve Lombardozzi to snuff out the charge.

His fastball was clocked at 96 miles per hour.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Johnson wastes little time earning win after hiatus

Dustin Johnson won for the ninth time in his PGA Tour career on Sunday.
MIKE EHRMANN/GETTY IMAGES

A month after he returned from his curious leave of absence, Dustin Johnson was posing with another big trophy.

In a power show Sunday on the Blue Monster, Johnson was flawless on the back nine and blasted two big drives to finish off a 3-under 69 and win the Cadillac Championship for his second World Golf Championship title.

Johnson took advantage of a collapse by J.B. Holmes, who lost a five-shot lead and closed with a 75 to finish one shot behind. Masters champion Bubba Watson opened with four birdies in seven holes to lead by two shots, only to make three bogeys in a four-hole stretch on the back nine. He shot 71 and finished two behind.

Johnson won for the ninth time in his PGA Tour career and moved to No. 6 in the world.

Johnson returned just five weeks ago from a six-month leave of absence to seek professional help for what he described only as personal challenge. Golf.com reported in August that Johnson had failed a cocaine test for the second time and that he previously was suspended in 2012 under similar circumstances.

Johnson only said "No" when asked if he failed a drug test in an interview before his return.

The swagger was back at Trump National Doral, especially on the finishing holes. But when he tapped in for par, it was clear this victory meant more than the others. He walked off with fiancée Paulina Gretzky and their son, Tatum, who was born in January.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I knew there was something I was missing that could make me great. I was working hard on that and I think it's showing right now." Dustin Johnson

AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You don't have to wait until later this month to plan what you are going to do. Start now. The more you look ahead the more successful you will be.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Don't take someone's negative remarks to heart because either they don't mean what they say or they don't realize how offensive it sounds to you.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
It may seem as if the world is falling apart but it really isn't that bad, and what is bad is part of a larger plan.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
One of the most challenging times of the year will begin when the Sun changes signs on the 20th but between now and then there are plenty of things you can do to make life easier for yourself.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Make an effort to talk over your problems, especially your money problems, with someone who can not only lend a sympathetic ear but can help you with practical advice.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You have been playing a number of roles in recent weeks but you need to remember that they are make believe and not reality.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Look for ways to co-operate with colleagues and people in positions of power. You have wasted enough time and energy trying to outdo each other.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
According to the planets you have become too set in your ways of late — yes, even more so than usual — and now you must loosen up a little and let other possibilities into your life.

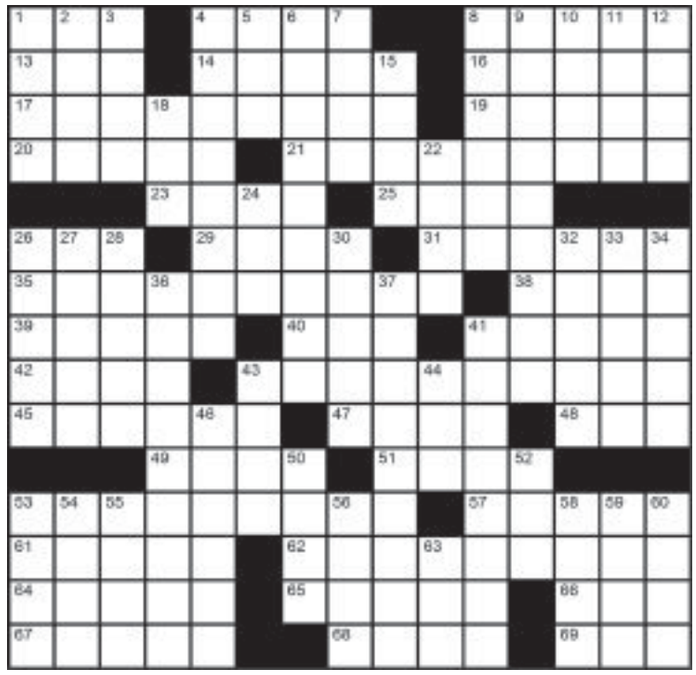
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Focus on what really matters. It may be hard for someone like you who is so easily bored to concentrate on just one thing.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Looking around at the world you might come to the conclusion that the times are not as good as they should be. So how can you make them better?

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Your mind will have to work hard this week, so don't do anything too strenuous physically.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
What you own and what you earn is on your mind constantly at the moment but don't worry yourself sick about it. There are more important things in life than dollars and cents, so keep a sense of perspective.

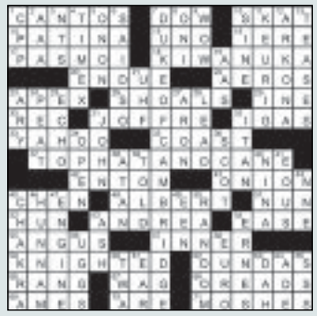
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Vintner's 'dry'
4. Howard Stern's producer 'Mr. Booey'
8. Comic actor Mr. Shore
13. Clearasil rival, __ 5
14. "_ __ Life" (1998)
16. Prefix pertaining to blood vessels
17. Animated comedy on FOX: 2 wds.
19. Opera soprano Beverly
20. Rectify
21. Vancouver Island town, 'Heritage by the Sea'
23. "_, __ is me!"
25. Palm starch
26. Back then
29. Bus. name abbreviations
31. 6/49 and Max
35. Big park in Montreal: 2 mots
38. Suffix meaning 'collection'
39. Seizes
40. Melissa of movies
41. Marlon Brando's "Superman" (1978) role
42. Water bird
43. Archie: Riverdale High professor
45. 50th Anniversary! Song from "The Sound of Music" (1965)
47. Pipsqueak pup
48. Sample
49. Archeological site of western Iran
51. __ Alberni, BC
53. Words stamped on a spy's dossier
57. Mirage vision
61. Mrs. '__ Goes to Paris (Paul Gallico novel)
62. Place to check outerwear
64. Bar chair
65. Man, in Montreal
66. Skater Midori
67. 'Sleep'-meaning prefix
68. 'Kind' suffix
69. Don't keep up

Down
1. Chesterfield
2. Test
3. Flower cluster
4. Pianos of this brand
5. 'Lull' ending
6. Taps, for one: 2 wds.
7. Water: Spanish
8. Turn a particular Monopoly corner: 2 wds.
9. Band performing the song at #36-Down
10. Fancy fruit
11. Lively tune
12. Mr. Shmenge ("SCTV" character)
15. Late guitarist Mr. Barrett's
18. Ancient veil-giver
22. Ivy League school
24. Man. neighbour
26. Chilly
27. Legendary Greta
28. Breath __ __ (It's nice when it's fresh)
30. Historic French title of respect
32. Predictions pack
33. __ __ the other (Not both)
34. Chips, often
36. "FashionTelevision" theme tune
37. Song by Canadian singer Kandle: 4 wds.
41. Canoeist's keeping-straight paddling moves
43. Financial-related, briefly
44. Antacid brand
46. Morning mixture
50. Architectural shape
52. Road surface
53. Itar-__ (Russian news agency)
54. A conjunction/A preposition... Together here.
55. Graduation ball
56. Mr. Musk
58. Earth
59. Bit
60. City haze
63. Morning hrs.

Yesterday's Crossword

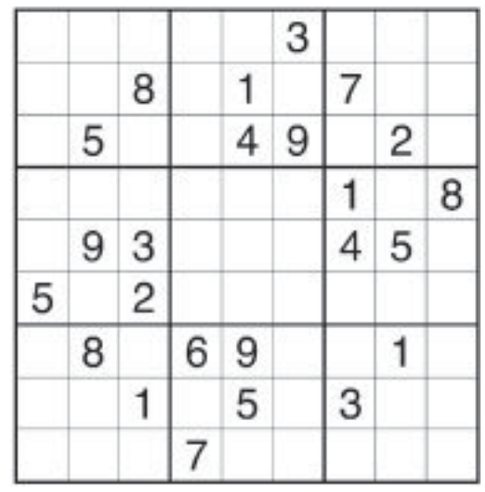


Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

6	1	8	5	4	3	9	2	7
5	7	2	6	8	9	3	1	4
9	3	4	2	7	1	5	6	8
4	2	6	3	1	8	7	5	9
3	5	1	9	6	7	8	4	2
7	8	9	4	2	5	1	3	6
1	4	5	8	9	2	6	7	3
8	6	3	7	5	4	2	9	1
2	9	7	1	3	6	4	8	5

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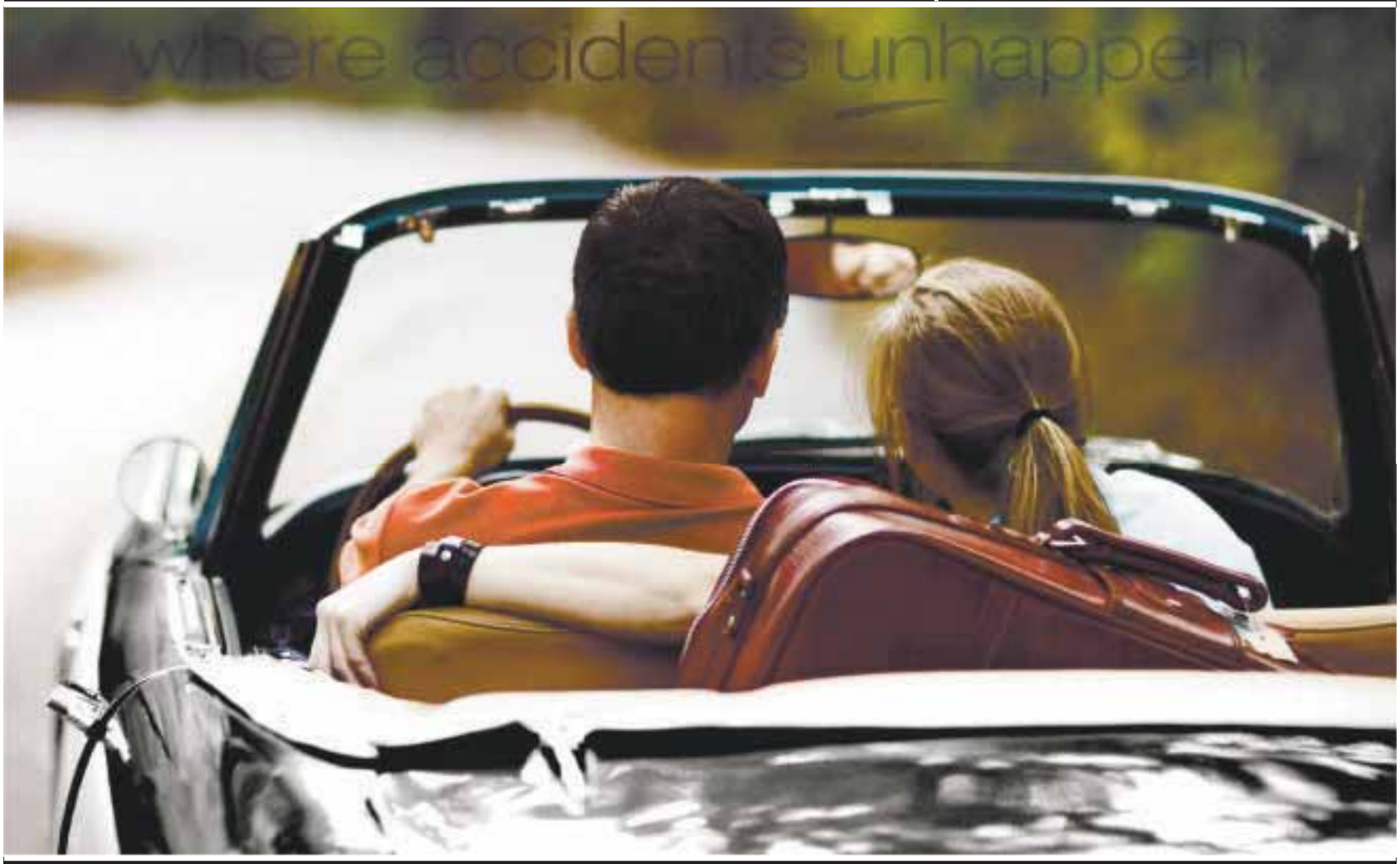

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